

Meaningful Use for Eligible Professionals - Medicare

Overview

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA). Part of this law outlines incentive programs under Medicare and Medicaid for eligible professionals (EPs) and hospitals that adopt and demonstrate meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs). EPs may participate in either the Medicare or Medicaid program and are allowed to change participation from one program to the other once. The Medicare incentive program is federally run by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Eligibility for these incentives is defined in the law and is based on the individual provider, not the practice. EPs cannot be hospital-based. Medicare EPs include:

- Doctors of medicine or osteopathy
- Doctors of dental medicine or surgery
- Doctors of podiatric medicine
- Doctors of optometry
- Chiropractors

Participation in other Medicare Incentive Programs

Physicians who participate in other Medicare incentive programs can also participate in the ARRA EHR incentive program including:

- Medicare Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
- Medicare Electronic Health Record Demonstration Project
- Medicare Care Management Performance Demonstration

Physicians who choose to participate in the ARRA EHR Incentive program cannot participate in the Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program.

Medicare Incentive Payment Overview

- Incentive amounts are based on Fee-For-Service allowable charges
- Incentive payments will begin in 2011
- EPs starting after 2012 will receive decreased incentives
- EPs must begin the program by 2014 to receive incentive payments
- A bonus amount of 10% is available to EPs who practice predominantly in a Health Professional Shortage Area
- EPs can only receive one incentive payment per year
- A maximum incentive amount of \$44,000 is available over a five-year period
- Incentive payments will not be made after 2016

Medicare Incentive Table

	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013	CY 2014	CY 2015 and later
CY 2011	\$18,000				
CY 2012	\$12,000	\$18,000			
CY 2013	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$15,000		
CY 2014	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	
CY 2015	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
CY 2016		\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$39,000	\$24,000	\$0

Meaningful Use Requirements

There are three components to Meaningful Use (MU)

- Using a certified EHR in a meaningful way
- Using a certified EHR to exchange health information electronically
- Using certified EHRs to submit clinical quality measures (CQMs) and other such measures selected by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Reporting

- Year one reporting is 90 days of EHR use only, and each subsequent year equals one full calendar year of reporting
- Must report on objectives and CQMs
- Some reporting is yes/no or numerator/denominator attestation for first year; and CQM submitted electronically in years two onward
- For certain measures, 80 percent of patients must have records in the certified EHR
- EPs must report 15 core objectives
- EPs must submit data on five of 10 menu objectives and include one public health objective
- EPs must report six CQMs
 - Three from a core/alternate core set; and three from a menu set of 38
- Menu objectives and CQMs do not apply to each provider and will not count against the EP in determining incentive payments
- There are two types of percentage-based measures:
 - All patients seen during the EHR reporting period
 - All patients and actions taken for patients whose records are kept in the certified EHR

Participation Requirements

- EPs must register for the Medicare EHR Incentive program on the CMS' Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) website
- EPs must be enrolled in the Medicare FFS or Medicare Advantage (MA) program
- EPs must have a National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- EPs must use certified EHR technology

Helpful Links

CMS official website for EHR incentive programs:

<http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms>

Certification and certified EHRs:

<http://healthit.hhs.gov>

Meaningful use:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/health_hhs_gov_meaningful_use_-_providers/2998

